

Clean Energy Development Fund Energy Funding Opportunities for Towns

Grant Program

The grant program provides financial assistance for pre-project assessments, large-scale systems, small-scale systems, community-scale systems, and special demonstration projects over 15 kW in size (or 1 million Btu/hour for thermal projects or 15 tons of capacity for geothermal projects). Maximum grant award is \$500,000, and all projects require at least a 50% match (some categories allow some of that to be in-kind match). Up to \$2.5 million available per grant round, some of which will be federal stimulus (ARRA) dollars and will come with restrictions. Two grant rounds per year; next RFP will be issued in January 2010. See http://www.publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/ee_cleanenergyfund.html for more information.

Municipal Technical Assistance Grant Program

This grant program assists municipalities by providing up to \$5,000 per grant for renewable energy assessment studies. Up to \$50,000 is available for this program in FY 10. Funding is available for up to 90% of a project's cost (10% cash match is required from the grantee). Applications are due the first Thursday of every month. See http://www.publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/ee_cleanenergyfund.html for more information.

Loan Program

The loan program provides financial assistance for large-scale systems over 15 kW in size (or 1 million Btu/hour for thermal projects or 15 tons of capacity for geothermal projects). Maximum loan award is \$500,000; interest rate is currently 2%. Applications are due quarterly (next round is due Oct. 1). Review period approximately two months. See http://www.publicservice.vermont.gov/energy/ee_cleanenergyfund.html for more information.

Small-Scale Renewable Energy Incentive Program

This program provides incentives for solar photovoltaic, solar hot water, wind, and micro-hydro systems under 15 kW in size. Non-competitive. Information and applications available at www.nerc-vt.org.

Public-Serving Institutions Program

As part of the ARRA stimulus funding, this program is currently being designed and will act as a revolving loan and/or small grant program for public-serving nonprofit or government institutions to implement non-electric energy efficiency measures, or renewable energy projects. More information to follow (around Oct. 1) at www.publicservice.vermont.gov.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) Program

CEDF will allocate the required 60% of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) ARRA federal stimulus allocated funds to units of local government that are

not eligible to receive direct grants from the Department of Energy. The DPS, in its application to DOE (still under review by DOE), has interpreted “units of local government” to be defined as stated in Vermont Statute (1 V.S.A. § 126), which defines a Municipality as “a city, town, town school district, incorporated school or fire district or incorporated village and all other governmental incorporated units.” Upon DOE approval of Vermont’s application, including its interpretation of a municipality, a solicitation will be issued to towns (timeframe now calls for an October issuance). Funds shall be used to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy installations. All subgrants to the units of local government will be made no later than 180 days after DOE application approval. More information will be available at www.publicservice.vermont.gov, and through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. In the meantime, towns should be preparing by assessing their weatherization, efficiency, and renewables needs and should be obtaining energy audits and cost estimates for work if possible. Information on obtaining audits can be found at www.eecbg.vermont.org. More information on the EECBG program in general (including preparatory steps to meet funding requirements, such as registering with CCR and obtaining a DUNS number), may be found at www.eecbg.energy.gov.

Regional Planning Commissions

Because Vermont does not have County level government and therefore did not receive direct county level funding, we will be allocating \$880,000 of EECBG funding to the ten Regional Planning Commissions in the state to use for county level energy efficiency related projects. Contact your local RPC for more information, or visit www.publicservice.vermont.gov.

Questions? Please visit www.publicservice.vermont.gov (or recovery.vermont.gov) first. Note that no solicitations will be issued until at least October, and you will be notified by VLCT. If there is an urgent matter and you cannot answer your question elsewhere, you may contact:

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